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United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Research Service
Plant Pest Control Division, Western Region

BEET LEAFHOPPER SURVEY - DESERT AREAS OF SOUTHERN UTAH AND NEVADA,
SOUTHEASTERN CALIFORNIA AND CENTRAL ARIZONA
February 3 - February 13, 1969

Surveys made by Plant Pest Control Division personnel in the beet leafhopper spring breeding areas named indicate that, present conditions prevailing, movement of the pest from these areas to cultivated districts in central Arizona and southeastern California, southern Nevada, southern and eastern Utah, and western Colorado is expected to be light to moderate; movement to northern Utah is expected to be light.

The southern desert breeding grounds, comprising approximately 50,000 square miles of potential annual weed host area, was considered to have an estimated 43.5% host plant cover at the time of the survey. As a result of fall and winter rains, annual host plants were found generally throughout central and southern Arizona. Elsewhere, lack of moisture restricted host plant germination and plants were sparse.

The average number of beet leafhoppers per square foot where host plants were present was 0.028 in 1969 as compared to 0.034 in 1968, 0.09 in 1967, 0.013 in 1966, 0.04 in 1965, 0.15 in 1964, 0.02 in 1963, 0.012 in 1962. It is estimated from data collected during the survey that overwintering beet leafhoppers in the spring breeding areas totaled 14.0 billion in 1969 as compared to 24.1 billion in 1968, 32.7 billion in 1967, 6.5 billion in 1966, 12 billion in 1965, 112 billion in 1964, 7.7 billion in 1963, 6.1 billion in 1962.

This report covers only the beet leafhopper situation as found in the area surveyed and does not have reference to populations that may have overwintered in local breeding areas in northern and eastern Utah or western Colorado or western Nevada.

Prepared at
PPC, ARS, USDA
Oakland, California
February 23, 1969

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Research Service
Plant Pest Control Division, Western Region
Room 201, Post Office Building
13th and Alice Streets
Oakland, California 94612

April 8, 1969

To: Cooperators

From: Jim R. Dutton, Regional Supervisor

Subject: Second 1969 spring beet leafhopper survey in desert
areas of central Arizona, southeastern California,
southern Nevada and southern Utah

The second beet leafhopper survey was made in the desert spring-breeding areas March 26-30. Leafhopper host plants were generally more stressed than at the time of the first survey. Lack of appreciable moisture coupled with winds had stunted and dried many of the desert plants. This condition prevailed throughout most of the area regularly checked. Therefore, the survey was limited to that area south of the 34th degree parallel.

The outlook for beet leafhopper migrations north remains as previously reported, light to moderate.

Jim R. Dutton

